

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TAGS: PINT, RP, US

SUBJ: REACTION TO NARCISO AND PEREZ VERDICT

REF: MANILA 10932

1. SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE PRESS CONTINUES REACT SHARPLY TO ANN ARBOR CONVICTION OF FILIPINA NURSES NARCISO AND PEREZ. GUILTY VERDICT ATTRIBUTED TO FAILURE OF U.S. JUSTICE, PARTICULARLY THE JURY SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. OVER PAST FEW DAYS, LOCAL PRESS HAD CONTINUED TO DEVOTE DAILY FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO U.S. WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF NARCISO AND PEREZ CASE, WITH EMPHASIS ON PROTESTS IN US IN THEIR BEHALF. GUILTY VERDICT CONTINUES TO DRAW EDITORIAL FIRE FROM PRESS, RADIO AND TV. JULY 15 EVENING EXPRESS EDITORIAL, "2 FILIPINA NURSES' GUILT INCONCEIVABLE," INDICATIVE OF TONE OF COMMENTARY. JULY 15 EVENING POST CHIMED IN THAT GENERAL PUBLIC HAS RECEIVED VERDICT WITH SHOCK, CONSTERNATION AND OUTRAGE. JULY 16 DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL SAID RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ITS RANKEST FROM UNDERLINED TRIAL AND MAKES A MOCKERY OF AMERICAN PREACHING OF JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY. ACCOMPANYING CARTOON SHOWED TWO HELPLESS NURSES IMPALED ON SWORD WIELDED BY LARGE FIGURE LABELD "US JUSTICE." TIMES JOURNAL'S FRANCISCO DE LEON IN UNCLASSIFIED

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JULY 18 COLUMN DEPLORED CONVICTION, STRESSING FAILURE OF PROSECUTION TO SHOW MOTIVE. HE ALSO QUESTIONED JURY SYSTEM, EXPRESSING DOUBTS WHETHER "THE JURY SYSTEM WILL EVER BE ACCEPTABLE IN THE PHILIPPINES." DE LEON CONCLUDED BY CONTRASTING COL. HENSLEY'S "HASTY DEPARTURE" FROM PHILIPPINES WITH NURSES' CONVICTION, SARCASTICALLY CALLING THEM "THE TWO FACES OF JUSTICE." MOST JUDICIOUS COMMENTARY

PROVIDED BY BULLETIN TODAY'S JESUS BIGORNIA, WHO NOTED JULY 16 THAT ALTHOUGH VERDICT APPEARS SHOCKING, "UNTIL SUCH TIME AS KEY DETAILS OF THE TRIAL PROCEEDINGS ARE MADE KNOWN...JUDGMENT ON AMERICAN JUSTICE MUST BE HELD IN ABEYANCE."

3. NURSES' CONVICTION ALSO HAS PROVOKED SOME SOUL SEARCHING OVER PHILIPPINE MASSIVE EXPORT OF NURSES TO U.S. PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH NURSING STUDENTS REVEAL FEAR NARCISO/PEREZ CASE MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THEIR CHANCES TO "TRY THEIR LUCK IN AMERICA." TIMES JOURNAL SOCIETY COLUMNIST JULIE DAZA NOTED BITTERLY THAT MANY NURSES CRITICIZING DECISION ASK TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE "BLACK-LISTED" BY U.S. EMBASSY. PRESIDENT OF PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION TOLD TIMES JOURNAL JULY 18 THAT NURSING EDUCATION IN NEED OF OVERHAUL TO EMPHASIZE SERVICE TO PHILIPPINE MASSES INSTEAD OF OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT.

4. LOCAL REACTION REFLECTS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF OR FAITH IN JURY SYSTEM. JULY 15 EVENING EXPRESS EDITORIAL SAID JURORS DO NOT HAVE LEGAL TRAINING NECESSARY IN DECIDING COMPLICATED CASES. DAILY EXPRESS COLUMNIST TEODORO VALENCIA CROWED JULY 17 THAT IF CASE HAD BEEN TRIED IN PHILIPPINES AND DEFENDANTS HAD BEEN AMERICANS THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ACQUITTED BECAUSE OUR INSTITUTIONS OF JUSTICE ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO THE JURY SYSTEM. VALENCIA ATTACKED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. JURY SYSTEM AGAIN JULY 18, SAYING THE JURORS BASED DECISION ON "PURE HEARSAY AND PREJUDICE." EVENING POST EDITORIAL JULY 15 NOTED PLAINTIVELY THAT NURSES MIGHT HAVE GAINED SYMPATHY OF JURORS IF THEY HAD BETTER COMMAND OF ENGLISH.
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